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MEMOIRS
OF THE
LIFE
AND
CONVINCEMENT

Of that worthy Friend

BENJAMIN BANGS,

Late of STOCKPORT in CHESHIRE,
deceased; mostly taken from his own
MOUTH,

By JOSEPH HOBSON.

L O N D O N:

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MEMOIRS

OF THE

REI F E

A.D.

CONVINCEMENT



CHESHIRE

1841

Month

JOSEPH HOBSON

A.D. 1841

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1841

A
T E S T I M O N Y

FROM THE

Quarterly-meeting of CHESHIRE,
held at *Newton* near *Middlewich*
the 9th of the Twelfth Month
1741, concerning our dear and
worthy Friend, and Elder in the
Truth, BENJAMIN BANGS,
deceased.

THIS our ancient honourable Friend, and
eminent Minister of Jesus Christ, was
born in the Parish of *Longham* in the County
of *Norfolk*, the 1st Day of the Tenth Month
1652, of reputable Parents, and was religiously
educated in the Principles of the Church of
England (so called) by his Mother, his Father
dying when he was young. The Lord was
pleased in his young and tender Years to ex-
tend a merciful Visitation of Love to him, with
which he was at times deeply affected; and
about the nineteenth Year of his Age, being
then settled in *London*, was convinced of the
blessed Truth, as professed by us, and in a short
Time after he came forth in a publick Testi-
mony, and became an able Minister of the

Gospel of Christ, in which he laboured faithfully and fervently in divers Parts of this Nation, and the Kingdom of *Ireland*, before he came to settle amongst us, and was instrumental in the Convincement of many.

In the Year 1683 he married our worthy Friend *Mary Lowe* of this County, and thereupon settled amongst us; after which he visited many Parts of this Nation, and the Principality of *Wales*, and even till Age and Infirmities prevailed, continued to visit the Meetings of Friends in this and the adjacent Counties, where his Services were always acceptable.

He was an Elder worthy of double Honour, having obtained a good Report, not of Men seeking Glory, nor as a Lord over God's Heritage, but an Ensamble to the Flock, not forward to appear in publick Service; in Doctrine sound, clear, instructive and uncorrupted; his Openings were fresh and lively, and manner of Expression truly amiable. He delighted much to wait in Silence for the pure Openings of the Word of Life, whereby he became strong in the Lord and in the Power of his Might, sounding forth the Word of Reconciliation by Christ our Lord, and Salvation through his eternal Spirit; he was often fervent in Prayer and Supplication, and drawn forth in a sweet and heavenly Manner, to the great Joy and Gladness of the Sincere in Heart. He was signally qualified in our Monthly and Quarterly-

Quarterly-meetings, to speak a Word in Season for the Promotion of Peace, good Order and Discipline in the Church; which Meetings he constantly attended when at home and in Health.

He was remarkably compassionate to the Poor of the Society, in whom he observed a Degree of Sincerity and Worthiness, who were sure to meet with an Advocate in him.

In his private Capacity, his Countenance was awful, his Deportment grave, but intermixed with a pleasant and familiar Manner of Expression, that rendered his Company delectable to all with whom he conversed: And even when old Age and Infirmities attended, his Understanding was clear, and many sweet and heavenly Expressions dropt from him, concerning the Largeness of the Love of God to his Soul, together with sundry seasonable Advices, to the tendering of the Hearts of those present; for, as he often said to this Purpose, *That his Work was finished, and he freely resigned, feeling nothing but Peace from the Lord upon his Spirit*; yea, so plentifully was it poured forth upon him, that when near his End, he could not forbear rejoicing in the blessed Experience thereof, saying, *Now I know and witness the Saying of our blessed Lord fulfilled, viz. He that believeth in me, out of his Belly shall flow Rivers of living Water.*

Much more might be said concerning this great and good Man, and his sundry Services and diligent Labours in the Work of the Gospel for many Years, which are so well known to many, that we need not enlarge thereon : And although his Removal from us be a Loss to the Church, yet we fully believe it is his everlasting Gain, he being gathered home, as a Shock of Corn fully ripe, into the Garner of God, there to enjoy the blessed Rewards of the Righteous in an endless Fruition of Joy and Glory ; for, as he lived, so he died, a Servant of the Lord and his People, the 6th Day of the Twelfth Month, and was decently buried the 9th of the same, in Friends Burying-ground in *Stockport*, in the Year 1741, in the Ninetieth Year of his Age, and was a Minister about Sixty five Years.

Signed in Behalf of the said Meeting, by

JOSEPH PRICHLEY	JOHN HAYWOOD
THOMAS HOUGH	JONATHAN FALLOWES
PETER LEADBEATER	SAMUEL KENT
R. MERRICK	THOMAS ROYLANCE
JOHN CALE	DANIEL SEDDON
JOHN LEIGH	EDWARD GANDE
THOMAS BOULTON	RALPH BARNES
JAMES BROWN	THOMAS ARMITT, <i>sen.</i>
THOMAS CLARE	HENRY NEELD
ABRAHAM MERRICK	JOSHUA TOFT
JOSEPH HOBSON	ISAAC MOSS.
JOHN BARLOW	

MEMOIRS

OF THE
Life and Convincement

OF
BENJAMIN BANGS.

I Was born in the Parish of *Longham* in the County of *Norfolk*, the 1st of *December* 1652, of reputable Parents on both Sides ; my Mother had nine Children, I was the seventh ; my Father died when I was so young, that I can remember little of him.

My Mother being thus left a very sorrowful Widow, with all her nine Children at home, and a considerable Farm to manage, and troublesome Times thro' an unsettled Government, made Things still more difficult to her, yet she continued in that Station for some Years ; but we growing up, and having always been brought up to Business, and our Mother inclining to a more retired Life, she, by the Advice of several of the Gentry, with whom she was intimately acquainted, pursued her Intention, and, after a deliberate Consideration thereof, disposed of her Effects : And those of us who were grown up and fit for Service were, by the Advice and Concurrence of our dear Mother, quickly put into reputable Places, three of the youngest still

continuing at home under her Care and Instruction, who was very careful to teach us to read and write; and was not wanting to inculcate into us the Principles of Religion; for she was a very pious and religious Woman, was well educated in her Youth, both as to Writing and Literature, and understood Grammar very well; and in the Use of the Needle, the Art of Cookery, and other Things, relating to her Sex, exceeded many.

She was Daughter to a Clergyman whose Name was *Thomas Green*, he had the Benefice of *Royston* in *Hertfordshire*, where he lived and died, being a Man of no small Repute, and at his Death was much lamented by his Parishioners; for I coming to that Town, several of the ancient Inhabitants, hearing whose Grandson I was, came to pay me a Visit, and in giving a Relation of my Grandfather, wept at the Remembrance of him, saying, *He was a very pious Man, and never extorted any thing from his Hearers, but accepted what they would freely give him.*

My dear Mother, though always brought up in that Way, after the Beheading of King *Charles* the first, when other Teachers were introduced, utterly declined going to hear them, altho' much sought to by them. She would often tell us, that she saw so much Deceit and Hypocrisy cover'd under the Pretence of Religion, that she could not by any means join with them; but did believe the Lord would raise up a People who would be more agreeable to his Will, which she waited to come to the Knowledge of; and would sometimes be hinting at a People that were come forth, who were great Sufferers for their Religion; and said, *she did not know but these might be those whom God had raised up to stain the Beauty of the Pictures of those feigned Religions,*

Religions, that were so much then in vogue; these were the People called Quakers, of whom she had yet but little Knowledge.

But hearing that there was one of them lived about six Miles from her, it begot a Desire in her to pay him a Visit; she knew him before he was called by that Name, and he also had some Knowledge of her: Accordingly she one Day took me to ride before her, and entring into some Discourse with him, she, being a wise Woman, quickly found his Zeal to over-run his Knowledge, which Opportunity proved rather to her Hurt than Benefit. She staid not long, I being still on Horseback, but calling me to the Horsing-stock, she presently mounted, and we had not rode far before I perceived she was under some Uneasiness, intimating she had met with a Disappointment in what she expected.

After King *Charles's* Restoration, she observed that the Clergy, who had turned to be *Non-conformists*, now soon returned to be *Conformists* again; from which she concluded, that Rewards and Benefices were more their View than the solid Part of Religion; so that she continued in a retired Way of Life for a considerable Time afterwards: But hearing of the continual Sufferings of the People called *Quakers*, it raised a stronger Belief in her, that they were come to the Knowledge of something of a divine Principle, which so powerfully supported them in the Time of their Affliction; and she grew more desirous of some Conversation with that People; in order to which she inclined to remove to the City of *Norwich*, where I shall at present leave her, but shall have Occasion to make mention of her hereafter.

When

When I was betwixt eleven and twelve Years of Age, I was much given to divert myself amongst others in Running, Wrestling, and Foot-ball playing, which was much in practice in that Part of the Country where I lived, and my Company was very much desired by such: But my good Mother, whose Care was continually over her Children for their Good, would often be dropping some Words that tended to lead us to a more serious Way of Life, which had often their desired Effect, preserving us from that profane Way which too many then fell into, both in their Words and Conversation, to the great Dishonour of God and true Religion.

Being one Day by myself, not far from the Place of our Habitation, I met with such a Visitation, as before I had been altogether ignorant of, which was a *sweet Calmness* that spread over my Mind; and it rose in my Heart, that if I could but keep to this, what might I grow up to in Time? It did much affect me, and rested with me for some Time, and I acquainted my Mother therewith; she greatly rejoiced at it, and encouraged me to retire to it; and I then had a full Intention to have done so: And when my Companions got about me, pressing me to do as I used to do, although I had some Inclination to have answer'd their Desires, I found something in me that laid a kind of *Constraint* upon me, and prevented me from complying with their Sollicitations: But through continual Importunities, and a natural Inclination to a Spirit of Liberty, I came by degrees to lose much of the Sense of that Visitation, which now and then, upon serious Reflection, caused me greatly to mourn and lament for the Loss I had sustained, when through often gratifying my youthful Desires, and going from the Instruction of my inward Guide, I found still a
gradual

gradual Decay as to Religion to attend, even until at length I came to be left to myself.

I was now got to betwixt twelve and thirteen Years old, and inclined to go to some Trade, which my Mother encouraged, but withal acquainted me, that it must be to some Handicraft; for she considered that it would be imprudent to put me to any higher Business, since a Stock would be wanted to set me up when I came out of my Time: For although she had something to support herself, yet having four Sons and five Daughters, none of them could depend upon receiving much from her. We were indeed all of us indifferently well brought up, both in reading and writing; and although we of the younger sort were the most behind, yet we were able to signify our Minds one to another by our Pens.

Now my Mother desired me to acquaint her, *what Trade I most inclined to?* I told her, I was willing to go to any: So several Things pass'd upon this Subject; I at last concluded to be a *Schoemaker*, saying, *I thought it would take but little to put me out, and I should have something wherewith to get my Livelihood.* She commended my Thought, and there being one about a Mile from our House, who had then a pretty fair Character, we applied to him; he readily embraced the Proposal, and I was bound to him for five Years, and five Pounds was paid to him. But it happened we were mistaken in my Master's Circumstances; for before I had been with him (I believe) a whole Year, he in a private manner acquainted me, that he was got into Debt, and had not wherewith to answer his Creditors; and being afraid of Imprisonment, had no other Way to escape Imprisonment but to go off; and told me, if I would go along with him, he would
take

take as much Care of me as of himself, desiring me to keep this secret ; and if I inclined to go, would have me take Leave of my Mother, but to be sure to conceal our Intentions.

This was indeed a very hard pinch upon me ; but I consider'd that five Pounds were gone, and I little the better for it, and so it was better for me to embrace the Motion. He having a Brother of the same Vocation, we concluded to go all together ; and I went and took Leave of my Mother accordingly : But my parting with her was with great Reluctance, and she said to me, *Child, it will not be long before I shall see thee again* ; so with an Heart very full I returned.

The next Night about twelve o' Clock we set out, and got the Night following within a Mile of *Edmundsbury* in *Suffolk* ; the next Day we came to that Town, and having but little Money with us, we sat down there to work. Our Stay there was not long before we made our Way for *London* ; at which Place, in about three Days we arrived, it being soon after the great Fire in 1666 ; the City then lay as an Heap of Rubbish, and all Hands at work ; for they flocked up out of the Country from all Parts, there being Work enough for all. So my Master and his Brother fell presently into Work, but I was fit for little there, and to live and do nothing was very uneasy to me. We three dwelt together in the Name of *Brothers*, so my Master stood in pretty much Awe of me, lest I should make a Discovery, although I was no ways inclinable to it ; so I took an Opportunity to tell him, it would neither do him nor me any good, for to me to live after that manner doing nothing, and said, if we could find a good Workman of his own

own Trade, I did not doubt but he would take me for little or nothing for a Time.

It was not long before we found such an one, who, upon seeing me, was very willing to take me; so to him I went, and staid with him three Years, or something more, in which Time I understood my Business pretty well, and was a little ambitious in my Mind to become Master of it; therefore after I left him, I got into the Company of the best Workmen, which caused me to spend what I got amongst them, although I then earned considerably.

A short Time before I left my Place, a very hot Persecution began against the *Dissenters*: I then dwelt in *Stepney* Parish, not very far from *Ratcliff* Meeting-house, belonging to the People called *Quakers*: Sir *John Robinson* was then Lieutenant of the *Tower*, and being a Person maliciously bent against the said People, he one Day sent a Company of his Soldiers with Orders to break into the said Meeting-house, and to take out what Seats, &c. they could find, and burn them. Soon after this, he, with another Justice of *Stepney* Parish, concluded to come and break up their Meeting on a First-day; upon this Account the *Militia* there was raised, and some Companies of Foot came also from the *Tower*, and a great many Wardsmen were order'd to appear arm'd with Halberds, &c. amongst whom I was one, not by Inclination, but by Order of my Master; altho' indeed I had a secret Desire to see what would be done: Besides these Forces there came a Multitude of Spectators. Some of the last came in Love, to see if they could be any way serviceable to the Sufferers, and others were evilly inclined to get what they could from them.

All that appear'd in Arms had Orders to let all the *Quakers* come in that would, but to suffer none to go out until the Justices came ; who, when they approach'd, treated the *Quakers* with very rough Language, calling them *Rogues* and *Rebels* for meeting there contrary to Law, and so began to take their Names ; after this was done, they were permitted to go out, and they not pulling off their Hats to the Justices, a rude Sort of People in the Yard pluckt them off, and threw them over the Wall ; but they who were Friends to them saved what they could, and restored them to the Owners ; others who had a Mind to make a Prey, got a good Hat and left a bad one.

Three of the said People, whom Sir *John* took a Dislike against, for something (I think) they said to him, he order'd their *Mittimus* to be made to send them to New-Prison ; the Warrant and Prisoners being committed to the Care of the Constable to convey thither, he ran about to find some Wardsmen to assist him, when all indeed were gone but me and one more ; and in our Way the Prisoners made a Stop in *Whitechappel*, by the Leave of the Constable, to get some Refreshment, and to take a Copy of the Warrant. Whilst we were there, one of them came to me and said, *Thou hast an innocent Countenance, and dost not look like a Persecutor ;* I said, *No, it was much contrary to my Inclination ;* they then answer'd, *We believe thee, and freely forgive thee.* This indeed had some Effect upon me, and begot some Tenderness in my Heart towards them.

It was late before we deliver'd them to the Keeper, who said, *I know not what to do with them ;* several others being brought in to him from other Parts of the City that Day. When we return'd
back

back again it was late, and passing through *Ratcliff-highway* the Watchmen seized and examined us, and threatened to put us into the Round-house, for being out at that Time of the Night; but the Constable acquainting them with the Reason of it, they let us pass. It was but a few Days after this, that several Soldiers were sent from the *Tower* to pull down the said Meeting-house, of which they made very ruinous Work.

Although I was now got into a loose Way of living, yet I had now and then some secret Touches of that which was good, which raised a Desire in me to go to some religious Meetings, but cannot say that I got much Benefit thereby; for Liberty was still most grateful to me: But the good Example I had in my Childhood did all along rest with me, by which I was preserved from the profane Way of Life, that was too much practised in those Times as well as now.

My worthy Mother, who now resided at *Norwich*, fell in to have some Conversation with the People called *Quakers*, of whom she had entertained so good an Opinion before; and being thoroughly satisfied, that they were got to what she wanted, she readily embraced the Principles they professed, and sat down with great Satisfaction amongst them in their Meetings. Three of her Children, who about this Time lived with her, were also convinced of the Truth, and they lived in a great deal of Love and Unity one with another: And she being satisfied thoroughly, that she was come to the Ground and Foundation of true Religion, became very much concerned for the rest of her Children, and, being ready with her Pen, wrote to acquaint them, that she had met with what she had long wanted; and amongst the rest she remember'd
me,

me, and wrote to acquaint me with what People she had joined herself, and those Children then with her : And there being so many good Opportunities in the City of *London*, she said, she should also be glad to hear that I frequented their Assemblies ; with other Words relating thereunto. I quartered then in *Pall-mall*, not far from the Court.

My Companion then was a pretty sober young Man, who professed himself to be a *Presbyterian*, with whom I was sometimes a little too jocular in a bantering way ; he was with me when the Letter came to my Hands, which I read to myself ; but coming to the Words that advised me to go to the *Quakers* Meetings, the *Ill-nature* got up in me, and put me into such a Passion that I could read no farther, but put the Letter into my Pocket. This was on the Sixth-day of the Week, and I think in the Year 1671 ; but the First-day following, after I had dined, I went to take a Walk under the Arches in *Covent-garden*, and after a little Time a solid Concern came over my Mind, and this arose in my Thoughts, *What is the Matter that thou canst not read thy Mother's Letter ?* With that I went and sat down on a large Stone that was prepared for a Building, and then read the Letter with Pleasure, and it arose in my Mind to go to a Meeting. Then the Enemy of all Righteousness suggested to me, *Thou knowest not where a Meeting is :* But then it very intelligibly open'd on my Understanding, *Go down to Charing-cross, and there thou shalt see some of that People, follow them.*

Upon this I arose and went down the *Hay-market* near to *Charing-cross*, and there I saw five or six of the said People ; which was a Confirmation to me, that the Opening was right : So I followed them at some Distance, and indeed their Habit,
with

with their solid Behaviour, affected me ; they were going to the Meeting at *Westminster*, and when they came there, they went in, but I stood at the Door for a while. Here the Enemy was at work again, and would have perswaded me to have gone away, intimating, that *if some of my old Acquaintance came, they would but laugh at me ;* but the better Part prevailed.

The Meeting was then kept in two Parts, there being Shutters to open into the Dwelling-house to enlarge it upon Occasion, and I seeing a Post in the farther Room, thought, if I got behind that, if any Person came to the first Door they could not see me ; so thither I went accordingly, and the Meeting I think was not then much above half gather'd. Abundance of Reasonings now enter'd into my Mind, and the Enemy was hard at work to beget a Belief in me, that *if any one stood up to speak, they might be Persons of other Perswasions, and not Quakers, and I could not be capable of judging whether they were right or wrong.* It was not long before one stood up, and I thought to take good Notice of what he said, but so many wandering Thoughts prevailed, that I got no Benefit thereby. He sat down, and in a little Time another stood up, and I said to myself, *Well, I resolve I will mind what this Man says ;* but it was but a few Minutes before my wandering Thoughts got into *Holland*, and from thence I thought of going to *France* ; but meeting with a secret Check in myself for these vain Imaginations, I gave a Stamp upon the Floor with my Foot, which caused the Eyes of those in the Meeting to be upon me : So in a Fervency of Spirit I said in myself, *What is the Matter that I cannot be Master over my own Mind ?*

By this I saw I was altogether wrong, and wanted inward Strength to help me to get to something of a Stayedness of Mind upon God. Soon after this I was made sensible, that there was a *spiritual Warfare* to be passed through, and that no *Stayedness* of Mind could be attained to, till the inward Enemies of the Soul came to be *destroyed*. I now saw my Business was, to get into an *inward Retirement*, hoping thereby I might get to be somewhat a Master over mine own Mind. Being thus closely engaged, I did indeed, before the Meeting broke up, get to a Sight of the *Possibility* of obtaining what I was then deeply engaged for, and this answered the End of my coming to the Meeting: So I could then have wish'd that the Meeting would have held longer.

But it breaking up; when I came into *Westminster-abbey-yard* I met with some of my old Acquaintance, who would have had me go along with them, but I denied their Invitation, finding I had another Work to do, and went straight home to my Quarters, where I had not been long, before the young Man my Companion also came in. I was sitting in a very solid Frame of Mind, such as he never observed me in before, and he observing it said, *Where have you been to Day, you seem to be so serious?* I then proceeded to give him an Account of what I had met with since I dined, and told him, I believed he remember'd what kind of Temper I was in at the reading of my Mother's Letter. *Aye*, said he, *I saw you was under some Disatisfaction, but I knew not for what.* Why, said I, it was for my Mother's desiring me to go to the *Quakers* Meeting, which begot such an angry thing in me, that I had not Patience to read it through: But this Day, walking in *Covent-garden*, a sweet Visitation from the Love of God brought such a Calmness

ness over my Mind, with this attending it, *What is the Matter that thou canst not read thy Mother's Letter?* I then pluckt it out of my Pocket and read it with Pleasure. And giving him the whole Relation of what pass'd above, he was really struck with Admiration, saying to me, *He had never heard any Thing like it; that it must be something supernatural, or it never could have had such an Effect upon you.* And he was so far reached and convinced, that he soon after forsook his former Profession, and joined himself to the Quakers.

My Country Master's Brother, who came in Company with us to London, had been convinced some Time before this, and how, or by what Means he heard I was at *Westminster Meeting* on First-day, I know not; but he in a few Days came to pay me a Visit, and finding me grave and serious, gave me an Invitation to come to his Quarters, which was then in *Grub-street* near to *Cripplegate*, at the House of two good honest Friends; the Invitation was very pleasing to me, as was my Company to him, and them to whom I came.

The next Meeting I went to was, I think, the *Peel*, where I met with our good ancient Friend *James Park*; and although I met with little or no Benefit from those two that appeared at *Westminster*, yet I thought his Doctrine reached home to my State and Condition. I had something of a Superfluity in mine *Apparel*, which became such a Load and Oppression to me, that I thought I groaned under the Weight of it; and finding I could wear it no longer, after the Meeting I stript it off, and that gave me some Ease.

Several young Men who heard of the Manner of my Convincement, through, I think, the young

Man's Relation that was my Companion, were so reach'd and affected therewith, and seeing my grave and solid Behaviour, who they had heard had been before very wild, came also to embrace the Truth; so that I was made very early an Instrument for the Convincement of several.

I followed my Business very close, yet did pretty much frequent Meetings, where I still met with renewed Refreshments, and found myself much bettered by those good Opportunities: For indeed the Love of God was greatly towards me, and I felt a Growth in it; and the Overflowings of it was at Times such, that I was ready to think, *that the Work was done, and the inward Warfare near come to an End.* But oh! alas! I found myself mistaken.

Going one Day to a Meeting at *Grace-church-street*, where were *William Dewsberry* and *Charles Harris*, the latter stood up, exhorting Friends to *Faithfulness, and to resolve to do nothing but what was agreeable to the Truth.* I took such Notice of that, that I said in myself, *Well, I resolve to do nothing disagreeable to the Truth;* but no sooner had that Resolution pass'd my Thoughts, than I felt a Check in myself for it, and a sensible Decay to my inward Enjoyment, which increased gradually upon me, so that in a short Time I came to a considerable Loss. This I took as a *Permission* of the Almighty to bring me more to the Knowledge of myself.

In this State I continued some Time, and my inward Life decaying, I was brought very low as to my inward Enjoyments, which I had been formerly so plentifully supplied with; so that I began to grow a little careless, and the Enemy stept in with it, saying, *Thou art but young, and this is the*
only

only Time for thee to take the Pleasures of this World, and when thou art old, thou knows now how to get to what thou hast been so earnestly engaged to come to the Knowledge of. And I continued for some Time in an Unconcernedness of Mind, by which I sustained so great a Loss, that if I saw the Faces of any of my Friends in the Street, I endeavoured to avoid them, for Shame cover'd me, believing they knew what a Loss I was come to.

But after a Time my merciful Lord remember'd me, and as I sat at Work, the Word of the Lord came to me, *This is thy Day, burden not thy Heart*; which so struck me that I trembled: Upon this I soon remov'd, and got to my old Friends George and Dorcas Lowes again, who dwelt not far from Aldersgate. Now my Concern came to be so great, through losing what I had formerly enjoyed, by my Transgression, that I so lay under the Judgments of God, that if I did but let out my Thoughts towards any Thing of Liberty, nay, if I did but smile, I was inwardly reproved: So that now I saw I had no Way to take, but to lie under the Hand of God.

In this State my Exercise indeed was very great, my Tongue is too short to express it, and my Pen to describe it; but the Way to get to what I once enjoyed, I found by Experience to be very narrow: For if I took a wrong Step, either by Word or a vain Thought, my inward Instructor made it manifest that it did not belong to me, I had something else to do. Thus I continued for some Time, being inwardly very poor and barren, and often beseeching the Almighty, that he would be pleased to favour me with some small Ray from the Sun of Righteousness, to comfort a little mine afflicted Spirit: For in this State of Affliction the Enemy

was not wanting with his Temptations, to draw me into a Belief, *that the Day of my Visitation was over*; but having had a pretty great Knowledge of the manner of his Dealings with me before, I kept a strict Watch now against him in all those Attempts.

So in the midst of these mine Afflictions and hard Beſetments, I now and then met with some small Encouragement, being made ſenſible of ſome Springs of Life, that help'd me to believe that the Lord would not *forſake* me. And in this mournful and retired way of Life, I had ſome divine Openings, by which it was manifeſted to me, that by being brought through theſe experimental Exercises, I ſhould be the better prepared in Time to be helpful to others.

From this Time I began to grow and increaſe in that which was good, and feeling the Clouds to diſperſe that had been over my Mind, the Weight of mine Oppreſſions began to be gradually removed, and I felt my Spirits to grow more eaſy: Then my Hunger and Thirſt after Righteouſneſs increaſed, which gave me great Encouragement to hope that in Time all would be well, and I was ſo revived through it, that I ſaid in myſelf, *It is good for me that I have been thus afflicted, for now I know ſomething of what it is to buy the Truth*; for it had coſt me but a little before this.

Some Time after this, *John Tyſon*, a Friend that had been baniſhed for his Religion, who dwelt juſt going in at the *Bull and Mouth* Meeting-houſe, deſired me to come to be the Fore-man in his Shop, which I comply'd with, upon a certain Salary for four Years, which Term I continued with him, and the Lord was with me, and gave me an Underſtanding to do every Thing honeſtly belonging to my Place and Station,

Station, and all Things prospered under my Hand: But being through Multiplicity of Business kept very close, I had many Times very longing Desires to get to a Meeting, and there with my Friends to sit down in a retired Manner, out of the Hurries and Cares of the Things of this World, for those Opportunities were often greatly refreshing.

Whilst in this my Service, I went with some publick Friends to some Country Meetings on First-days, which I took more than a little Pleasure in; not only for the Benefit I receiv'd of the Meeting, but of a little Country Air, being still glad of embracing those Opportunities. And *Lucretia Cook*, an ancient Woman Friend, who had a publick Testimony, came to desire me to ride before her to *Hendon* Meeting, which was then pretty large: I did so, and in the Meeting I was under no small Concern, and a *Trembling* laid hold of me; and as soon as the Friend had concluded in Prayer, I was concern'd to kneel down to supplicate the Lord, which had such an Effect, that a great many present were broke into Tenderness; it was indeed a comfortable Opportunity.

This opened my Way to farther Service, and I began to be concern'd to appear in Publick, which many, especially of the younger Sort, greatly rejoiced at, and there was a tender Care in the Elders over me, who often would be dropping some reasonable Cautions to me, by which I was greatly benefitted.

After my four Years Service was accomplished, I quitted myself thereof, and there being a young Man, a Friend, that was inclinable to set up in the like Business in the same Street, he requested me to be an Assistant to him, which I at that Time com-

ply'd with, but it continued not long; for I felt some Drawings in my Mind to visit some Meetings in *Hertfordshire*. After my Return from thence, having met with good Satisfaction in that Journey, it came upon me to go towards *Bristol*, and I had the Company of a young Man from *Haveril* in *Suffolk*,

After we left *Bristol* we travelled into *Somersetshire*, but he having some pressing Occasions to go Home, we parted: I took my Way towards *Dorsetshire*, and coming to *Weymouth*, had several Meetings there; went from thence to *Pool*, and so to *Ringwood* in *Hampshire*, where I had several Meetings, and four or five young People were convinced of the Truth.

I came from thence to *Southampton*, from whence, after having had several good Opportunities, I went to the *Isle of Wight*; and after having had some Meetings there, I returned to *Southampton*. I found it then my Place to go back again to *Ringwood*, where Friends, and the young People newly convinced, very gladly received me.

After I had had a Meeting there, it open'd upon my Mind to go to *Lemington*, where were but a few of our Society; but a Meeting being appointed several went with me, and a considerable Company of the Town's People, some of whom were *Baptists*, came to it: After a pretty Time of Silence, I stood up and began to speak, and in came the Priest of the Town with two young Gentlemen; he sat down just before me, staid the Meeting till I had done, and then said to me, *What you have said are good and wholesome Words, and good for Edification, &c.* But you talk, says he, of the Teachings of the Spirit of God; and he asked, *How shall we come by*
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the Spirit of God? I said, *What art thou?* he answered, *I am a Minister of the Gospel.* What, said I, a Minister of the Gospel, and ask, *how we shall come by the Spirit of God?* He that hath not the Spirit of Christ is none of his; and so many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the Sons of God. *Why, that is Scripture,* said he: *Well,* but you say, *that you may live here without Sin.* Didst thou hear me say so, said I. *No,* reply'd he, *but I have a little Book in my Study that does say, That Men may attain to a sinless State on this Side the Grave.* I queried of him, who wrote that Book? *Why,* said he, *one of you Quakers, I think his Name is Whitehead.* What Doctrine, said I, dost thou preach to the People, is it to continue in, or to come out of Sin? he answered, *to come out of Sin; but to attain to a State of sinless Perfection is impossible, for all our Righteousness is as filthy Rags.* But I hope, said I, that thou wilt not say, that the Righteousness of God is as filthy Rags. *No,* says he, *God forbid I should say so; but in many Things we sin all.* That, reply'd I, is for want of coming to the one Thing needful. *People,* says he, *we never read of the one Thing needful in all our Lives.* Didst thou never read, said I, that Christ told *Martha, she was cumber'd in the much Serving, but Mary had chosen that good Part, the one Thing needful, that should not be taken from her.* *Why,* said he, *that is Scripture too, I had forgotten it.* *Well but,* said he, *Paul cried out, Oh! wretched Man that I am! are you better than Paul?* Dost thou believe, said I, that *Paul* was a Sinner, and a wretched one too, when he wrote that Evangelical Epistle to the *Romans*? Or, that he could be so in his writing in the 24th Verse of the 7th Chapter, when in the next Verse but one he says, *There is therefore now no Condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the Flesh, but after the Spirit. For the Law of the Spirit of Life in Christ Jesus, hath made*
me

me free from the Law of Sin and Death, Rom. viii, 1, 2. That is Scripture, said he.

After he had sate a little while, *Now, says he, I have something come into my Mind, I think God has brought it to me; He that saith he hath no Sin, deceiveth himself, and the Truth is not in him, 1 John i. 8. He then made a Flourish, saying, I have you fast now, I care not for you, nor all the Quakers in England. I replied, Thou art an old Man, I am very sorry to find that thou takes upon thee to plead so much for the Devil's Kingdom. I tell you, says he, I do not plead for the Devil's Kingdom. Why, said I, thou pleads for nothing but Sin; and all Sin being of the Devil, and thou pleading for nothing but Sin, must consequently be a Pleader for the Devil. This, said he, is only a Digression from the Matter; I have you fast, you can never answer me. Didst thou ever read the Verse before that, said I. Yes, said he, I believe I have, but I have forgot it; what is it? Why, 'tis this, If we walk in the Light, as he is in the Light, we have Fellowship one with another, and the Blood of Jesus Christ his Son, cleanseth us from all Sin: But if we walk not in the Light, we lose the Benefit of the Blood of Christ. If any should then say, He hath no Sin, he deceiveth himself, and the Truth is not in him. The next Verse is, If we confess our Sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our Sins, and to cleanse us from all Unrighteousness. If, after this, any should say, We have not sinned, we make him a Liar, and his Word is not in us. Be not deceived, he that doth Righteousness is righteous, even as he is righteous. He that is born of God sinneth not, neither indeed can he, for his Seed remaineth in him, and he cannot sin, because he is born of God. But he that committeth Sin, is of the Devil.*

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And I said to the Priest, Art not thou now ashamed to plead so much for Sin, which is of the Devil's Kingdom? I farther queried of him, Dost thou take Money for preaching such Doctrine as this, as the preaching up the Necessity of Sinning to the People, when they can do that too much without thy encouraging of them? Upon which he got up and said, *Well, I will be gone*; but I desir'd him to stay, and I told him, I would prove him to be a Deceiver before the People present. He answer'd, *I will not stay upon your Demand*; and when he was got to the Door with the two before-mentioned Persons that came with him, he turn'd about and said, *Heark ye, the Darkness of the Devil is over you, and his Paw is over your Face, and you shall go down to the uttermost Pit of Hell*. So he set up a Laughter, and away he went. After which the People settled, and we had a good Opportunity, and parted in Peace.

I returned that Night to *Ringwood*, from whence, after a little Stay, I took my Way towards *London*, going by *Southampton*, and I there met with our ancient Friend *Thomas Robinson*. From thence we went together to *Portsmouth*, where we had a comfortable Meeting; and after some few Meetings more we parted, he going to *Surry* and *Suffex*, and I taking some Meetings by the Way, arrived safe at *London*.

After staying some Days in *London*, *William Bingley* and I went into *Kent*, passing by *Canterbury* to *Dover*, taking several Meetings in our Way, and we had indeed many blessed and comfortable Opportunities to our great Satisfaction. We were at the Quarterly-meeting of that County, which was pretty large, and Things were managed with a great deal of Calmness and Wisdom.

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From thence, some Meetings being appointed for us, we visited them, and came to *Wormingburst* in *Suffex*, the Seat of *William Penn*; where staying a Night or two, my Companion and I parted, he going farther into the Country, but I took my Way back directly for *London*.

After having visited several Meetings there, I found my Health and Strength much impaired; and having some Drawings in my Mind towards *Norwich*, I set out, and after taking several Meetings by the Way, I got to it in a better State of Health than when I left *London*, and my dear Mother received me there with a great deal of Joy, I not having seen her before for several Years.

The first Meeting I was at there was on a Fourth-day, which was indeed a very tendering Opportunity, the Hearts of many being greatly affected. I found it now to be my Place to take my Abode there: And in a short Time after, a great many of the younger Sort of People frequented the Meeting, and several were convinced; several Friends also had their Mouths open'd in Testimony, who grew to be very serviceable in their Generation.

In the Year 1677 I had some Drawings in my Mind to visit some Parts of the North, and going by *Lynn* I took several Meetings in *Lincolnshire* till I came to *Brigg*, but having got a severe Cold, I there fell ill of a *Fever*, which was so sharp upon me, that several despaired of my Life: *George Whitehead* being then in the Country, and hearing of my Weakness, came to see me, which I took very kindly, but my *Fever* was not then at its Height; yet through the Goodness of God I recover'd sooner than could have been expected.

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From thence I went to *Hull*, *Thomas Markham* accompanying me. We had but a rough Passage, and the Night was dark ; but thro' some Difficulty we arriv'd safe at the Town, where there being a great Noise of a *Popish* Plot against the King and Government, at our landing we found a strong Guard set to examine all Passengers, but my Friend that accompanied me being well known there, they let us peaceably pass.

Staying some few Meetings there, my Friend returned to *Brigg*, and I took my Way to *York*, visiting some Meetings as I went along. I staid there several Meetings, for my Illness had brought me very low ; but Friends gladly receiv'd me, and I had several comfortable Opportunities with them. From thence I went to *Leeds*, taking *Tadcaster* in my Way, and although I was yet but weakly in Body, the Lord's blessed Presence did so attend me, that in Meetings I appeared as if I ailed nothing ; I had many sweet and comfortable Opportunities with Friends in their Meetings, as I pass'd along through that County.

From *Leeds* I went to *Sheffield* ; from *Sheffield* to *Chesterfield*, and had there a very good Meeting. And being very desirous to get to *Nottingham* Meeting on First-day, I staid no Meeting at *Mansfield* ; but staid at *Nottingham* some Days, at the House of our ancient Friend *John Reckless*, and had several good Meetings there.

From thence I went to *Leicester*, where I found several Friends in Prison, whom I visited, and had a seasonable Opportunity with them. From *Leicester* I came to *Northampton*, and had a Meeting, in which the Lord's Power broke in upon us ; it

was

was indeed a very tendering Opportunity, blessed be God for it.

After staying there two or three Nights, I came to *Wellingborough*, and having had a Meeting there, I had Drawings in my Mind towards *Banbury*. I was now attended with a *Tertian Ague*, and the Winter coming on made the Fits more tedious to me. Coming to *Banbury*, I lodged at the House of *Richard Viviers*, who finding me in so weak a Condition, took great Care of me, so that in a few Days I was finely revived, and went to *Oxford*, and had a good and peaceable Opportunity there.

From thence I returned again to *Banbury*, and after having had some few Meetings thereabouts, I went through some Part of *Bedfordshire* into *Hertfordshire*; having had some Meetings there as I passed along, I came into *Essex*: But my Fits growing more strong upon me, and the Weather sharp, being now towards the latter End of the Tenth Month, and my natural Strength being much impaired, I made my Way towards *Norwich*, where, by short Journeys, I arrived in the Eleventh Month, and found Friends well, and Meetings very well frequented. But my *Ague* continued several Months after, insomuch that I was grown so weak that many despaired of my Recovery. But the Spring coming on, and warm Weather increasing, I began to recruit in Strength, and the *Ague* leaving me, I revived bravely, and was enabled to visit several Meetings in the County. And when I was at home I was not idle, but work'd at my Trade very diligently, and was also a constant Frequenter of our First and Week-day Meetings.

The next Spring, in the Year 1679, I went up to *London*, and after the Yearly-meeting was over I returned

I returned to *Norwich* ; visiting some Meetings in *Essex* and *Suffolk*, and got home in Health, having had many sweet and comfortable Opportunities to mine and Friends mutual Satisfaction.

And although Things had been at a low Ebb formerly for several Years in that City of *Norwich*, as to the Growth and Prosperity of Truth, yet now the Hearts of many were opened to receive the Testimony of it, and they joined with and sate down amongst us, and their Gravity and Sobriety gain'd them a good Report amongst the People ; by which several who were Strangers to us came also to be convinced of, and received the Truth, joining themselves to our Society, whereby we were straitned for Room where the Meeting was kept ; and there being a Piece of Ground that Friends had formerly purchased, we began to talk of building a Meeting-house thereon, which the younger Sort of Friends were zealously concerned for ; but there not being many wealthy Men amongst us, although they were sensible that such a Place was wanting, they began to consult how or which way Money could be rais'd to answer the Occasion : Upon this, those that were of the best Abilities made Subscriptions, and after that, had recourse to Workmen that understood building, to compute what the Charge of such a Building as was intended might amount to, which was accordingly done.

When we finding the Subscriptions fall short of that Sum, before Friends could be got to enlarge their former Subscriptions, they began to call upon the younger Sort, who as yet had subscribed nothing, to know what they would do towards carrying on of the Work ; upon which they had a Meeting amongst themselves, and all being sensible

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of the Necessity for such a Place, they needed not many Words to stir them up to subscribe out of their small Abilities, most of them being Journey-men *Combers, Weavers, Shoemakers, &c.* but were desired not to put down more than what they would take Care honestly to pay when call'd upon: So they began to consider how much they could earn in a Week, and how much of that they could lay by towards the forwarding of so good a Work; upon which we found, that a handsome Sum would be raised: This gave such Encouragement to the former Subscribers, that they agreed with the several Workmen to erect such a Building as was proposed to them.

This Intention of Friends soon got Air in the City, and some of the leading Men thereof, particularly the then Recorder, gave out, *That the Quakers never should build an House there*; but Friends took no Notice of his Threats, but laid the Foundation of the House; and before it was wholly laid, several of the younger Sort of Friends took a View of it, and, believing it would not be large enough to answer the Occasion, desired the Workmen to stop till farther Orders: Upon which they had recourse to the first Subscribers, some of whom subscribed ten Pounds apiece more; but that still falling short to make good the intended Enlargement, the poorer Sort were again call'd upon to know what they would contribute farther? Upon which they had another Meeting to consider of it, whereat they readily fell in to enlarge their first Subscriptions.

And they found the Lord so blessed their Endeavours, that they could contribute more than they thought they could when they subscribed before, and so they handsomly advanc'd above
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their first Proposal. And for a farther Enlargement thereto, the young Men made Application to the young Women Servants, &c. desiring them to exert themselves upon this Occasion, which they readily did, and rais'd several Pounds amongst themselves: After which the Work went readily on, and was finished to the Satisfaction of all concerned.

But the aforesaid Recorder breathed out farther Threatnings, saying, *Although the Quakers had built the House, they should never meet in it.* Yet when every Thing was finished within the House as well as without, we had our first Meeting there on a Fourth-day, in the Year 1680, which was pretty large and comfortable, for the Lord's blessed Presence was among us, and we parted peaceably.

The First-day following we met again in the Morning, which Meeting also ended in Peace to our great Satisfaction. In the Afternoon the Meeting was much larger, but towards the Conclusion thereof came the Recorder, with old Parson Whitefoot, Priest of the Parish, and several Officers, Soldiers and others; I was at Prayer when they came in, and the Recorder and the Priest step'd upon a Seat, and there stood till I had almost done; then the Recorder cry'd out, *Silence there:* When I arose from my Knees he ask'd me my Name, and what Trade I was of, and then order'd the Constables to take me out into the Passage that goes to the Street, and then went on taking the Names of Friends present; but the old Priest was quickly weary of staying, for several told him, *It ill became him to appear there, to encourage a Spirit of Persecution against his peaceable Neighbours.* The Recorder answer'd, *You meet in Contempt of the Law.* He was answer'd, that we look'd upon it

as our indispensable Duty to meet together to perform that Worship which we owe to Almighty God, and that we were no Disturbance to the Government, being peaceably met together, which they themselves were Witnesses to the Truth of. The old Parson, as aforesaid, quickly withdrew and went into the Street, but having stood there a while he came in again, and stepping up to me, said, *You are a stubborn People, and might prevent all this Trouble if you would come to Church.* I, pointing to the Steeple-house, said, What dost thou call that the Church? He said, *Yes, it is a Church; if it be not a Church, what is a Church?* I say it is the Church. I answer'd, the Church of God is the Ground and Pillar of Truth. *You talk,* said he; *if I ask you one Question of Divinity, you cannot answer me a Word.* I answer'd, how dost thou know that, thou hast not yet try'd me; and he went away into the Meeting again without any Reply.

He had not staid long there but he came out again, and there being several People in the Passage, he began to tell them, *The Quakers were an erroneous People, they deny Baptism and the Lord's Supper.* I step'd up to him, and laid my Hand upon his Shoulder and said, Thou asserts what thou canst never prove. *Ob!* said he, *are you there?* And so went into the Street, and staying till the Recorder came out, they walk'd away together.

Two Friends in the Meeting having observed the Recorder's rigorous Proceedings, reminded him of the illegal Proceedings of *Empson and Dudley*; at which he took such Offence, that after he had done taking Names, he made their *Mittimus* and sent them to Prison, where, I think, they were confined till discharged by the following Quarter Sessions.

I expected

I expected likewise to be committed, being kept all this Time under a Guard in the Passage; but when the Recorder came out, he look'd upon me, yet said nothing but pass'd away, which the Guard observing, they also pass'd away, and left me at Liberty.

Not long after this our ancient Friend *George Whitehead* and *Thomas Burr* came to *Norwich*, and being at our Meeting on a First-day, were taken up and carried before the Recorder before-mentioned, who, upon their Refusal of paying twenty Pounds a Man for preaching, tender'd them the Oath of Allegiance, which they also refusing, he committed them to Prison.

I was at this Time visiting some Meetings in the Country, but after my Return to the City, going to our Week-day Meeting, the Constable, one *Paul Hartley*, an envious malicious Man, came to the Meeting, and finding me at Prayer, took me before the Recorder, and I expected no other but to be committed; but he appeared pretty mild, only asking me my Name and Place of Abode, &c. which I told him. The busy Constable took upon him to say, *Sir, there is an Act by which you may commit him*; whereupon I told him, he seem'd to be a very bold Man, to take upon him to tell the Recorder what he might do; which the Recorder smil'd at, and after a few Words told me, *I was at Liberty, and might go about my Business.*

At this Time our Meetings began to be pretty much attended with *Informers*, and the Sufferings of Friends increased, and soon after, as I was at Prayer in the Afternoon Meeting, the Constable and *Informers* came in, and took me before the Mayor, and I was at his House before he came from his

Worship; there came with him the Sheriff and several Aldermen. At his first Appearance he seem'd very rough; I said little to him, but he presently went up into his Council Chamber with his Attendants, and after a while he sent for me, the Constable and Informers, to come up. He then enquired of the Constable, where he found me? who told him, *at the Quakers Meeting*. He enquir'd, what I was a doing, and the Informers answer'd, *Sir, he was speaking to the People*. Upon which the Mayor asked me my Name, which I told him; he then asked me, *What Trade I was of?* I told him I was a *Shoemaker*; *Ob!* said he, *these are brave Times, when Shoemakers, Weavers and Combers set up to be Preachers*. I told him, I thought that a *Shoemaker* was not much inferior to a *Fisherman* or a *Tent-maker*, yet we find Christ called such, and made them able Ministers, which I hoped he would not deny. *Ob!* said he, *they were mov'd to it by the Spirit of God*. Yes, said I, and the same God yet is. *Aye, but,* said he, *that extraordinary Way is not now to be expected*. I answer'd, that he now, *that bath not the Spirit of Christ is none of his; and so many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the Sons of God*.

There was a divine Dread which attended me upon this Occasion, and I was sensible that the Power of Truth was over all, through which I took the Freedom to advise them, to take heed what they did, lest haply they should be found fighting against God; and that he, and those that were present, knew us to be an industrious and peaceable People, and to persecute us for our meeting together to worship God, which we look'd upon to be our indispensable Duty, and to impoverish us to gratify a parcel of indigent Informers, I thought would not tend much to their Honour.

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Why, says the Mayor, you can call them indigent Informers, but you refuse to give Persons their due Titles. I told him, I thought he was mistaken, for we never refus'd to give Persons their due Titles, as Mayor, Alderman, Sberiff, &c. Well, said he, I am glad to bear it; and then call'd to his Servant to bring up a Bottle of Wine, which was done, and a Glas being fill'd, he said to me, here is to you, but you shall not drink, and so gave it to the Sheriff; and when the rest had drank, he said, However I will give him a Glass, which I refused; he again desired me to take it, and I still refusing it, it caus'd him to look a little blank.

Upon this they all went down, and taking their Leave of the Mayor, left me alone with him: He then appeared very loving and friendly to me, desiring me to take no Exceptions at his rough Behaviour at first; for, said he, *Times so run, that I am obliged to shew my Dislike to such Things, that otherwise I should not incline to do;* and he also asked me, *whether I inclin'd to go from thence?* I told him, to a Friend of ours that liv'd in *Dow-lane*; and he looking out and observing a Multitude of People in the Market-place, who met to see what became of me, for fear they should give me any Disturbance, there being four of the Sheriff's Officers at hand, he ordered them to attend me whither I had a Mind to go; which they accordingly did: And when the People saw me guarded by four Men, they concluded I was going to Prison, my Way from the Mayor's lying towards it, at which they seemed to be forry; but seeing me turn down *Dow-lane*, they appeared to be glad thereat. And when I came to my Friend's Door, my Guards took Leave of me in a friendly manner.

I having had for a considerable Time, some Drawings in my Mind to get a Meeting at a little

Sea-port called Cloy, not far from Wells, and there being but one Friend in Town, who was a Master of a Ship, could not well tell how to obtain it, but he coming to Town I acquainted him thereof; he told me *he was glad of it, and did not at all doubt but he could manage that Point to my Satisfaction; for, said he, my Father is living, and his Dependency is partly upon me, so that he will hardly refuse any Thing that I request of him, and he is Clerk of the Parish, and as soon as I have discoursed him, and find a Way open'd, I will acquaint thee therewith; which accordingly he did, and a Meeting was appointed, which he also advis'd me of, and thither I went, and there was a considerable Appearance of People, both of the Town and Country, and a good peaceable Meeting we had, for the Lord's blessed Presence was amongst us, blessed be his Name for it; when I had concluded in Prayer, the old Clerk said Amen heartily.*

I concluding to stay there all Night, a Supper was prepared for me, and the Priest of the Town hearing of the Meeting, was inclin'd to discourse with me, but not being willing to undertake it himself, he sent about three Miles to another Priest to come to his Assistance, which he did: And as soon as it began to grow a little darkish and they were coming, the young Man, the Friend, went to see after my Horse, but meeting them pretty near to the House, he turn'd in again, and told me there were two Priest coming. Upon this Notice I sunk down to my Life, and kept very retired, and they came in, and after taking a Turn or two about the House, the Assistant came and sat down pretty near me, I having been pretty warm in the Meeting, had my Cloak on, which I then commonly rode in: The Town Priest still walking about, I arose and said to him, *If thou pleasest thou mayst sit down here.*

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The Word *Thou* greatly displeased him. His Assistant said, *You may keep your Seat, we are plain Men, and are come to you without a Cloak.* With that I turn'd to my Seat and reply'd, *If you be plain Men, it is well, and though you come to me without a Cloak, yet, let me tell you, your Covering is blacker than mine.* How do you mean, says he? I reply'd, *I mean as I say.* What, says the Town Priest, *is this their Preacher?* Yes, says the other, *I challenge him to be him.*

By this Time a great many People came into the House, and stood about the Door and Windows. The Assistant then said, *We are come to dispute with you, and you shall lay down your Proposition, and we will dispute upon it.* I told him, it look'd unfair in them, they being two, to press me to lay down a Proposition, which was not the Practice of fair Disputants; but the Assistant press'd it several Times. I then told them, I was there, and if they had any Thing to object against me, I was ready to answer for myself; No, said they, *we have nothing to charge you with, but you must lay down your Proposition, and we will argue thereupon.* Something now opening upon my Mind, I told them, that altho' it look'd very unfair in them, yet if I laid down a Proposition, would they answer me? They both said, *Yes, they would.* Then, said I, "There is a Manifestation
" of the Spirit of God given to every Man, to
" profit withal; this Spirit of God is the Spirit of
" Truth, and that so many as give up to it, to
" be led and guided by it, it would lead and guide
" them into all Truth." This is my Proposition, and I will stand by it.

The Town Priest in a scornful Manner said, *This is no more than what we own;* and made a great Noise and Clatter up and down the House: Upon

which I said, I have something more to say to it; but he continuing his Noise, the other Priest said to him, *Sir, pray bear him, he says, he has something more to say to it*: Upon this he was silent. And I said, since what I have laid down is no more than what you own, I query, *Are you the Men that are so given up to it, as to be led and guided by the Spirit of Truth, into all Truth, yea or nay?* The Town Priest said, *I thought what he would say*; and the other reply'd, *Sir, it is to the Matter in hand*. And he then said to me, *I perceive you are a Scholar, pray tell me what University, and what College you were educated in?* I said, you did promise here, before the People, that you would answer me, and I insist upon it; but no Answer I could get: But the Town Priest in a light, airy Spirit, said, *You Quakers pretend to be led by the Spirit of God; what, did the Spirit lead you to this Town, what, to Cloy?* I arose up and told him, I take thee to be a Man not worth a Word, but if thou wilt be quiet (he continuing to make a Noise) I will answer thee; he replied, *methinks you are very bold*. Yes, said I, my Cause is very good. Well, said he, *what have you to say?* I answered, it was upon me from the Lord to visit that Place. *How shall I know that*, said he? I answered, whether thou knowest it or no, the Fruits of my Labour shall make it manifest. *Did you ever bear the like, People*, said he, *I have talk'd with him all this while, and he has not convinced me yet*. Oh! vain Man, said I, that notwithstanding the singular Life, the excellent Doctrine, and unparalleled Miracles which our blessed Lord wrought, the High Priests were so far from being convinc'd by him, that they took an Occasion the more to put him to Death: Upon which he was silenced.

Now, says I, as thou ask'd me a Question, *How I came here?* in my Turn, I ask thee, how thou camest

camest here? He answer'd, *Why, the Lord placed me here.* What to do, said I? He answer'd, *To be an Overseer, and a Worker in his Vineyard.* Aye, said I, I shall soon know that; the Apostle when he was sent forth, it was *to unstop the deaf Ear, and to turn People from Darkness unto Light, and from the Power of Satan unto God.* Now, said I, how many hast thou turned since thou camest to this Place?

There standing a Chair betwixt us, he thump'd with his Hand upon it, and said, *May be God's Time is not yet come.* What, said I, did God place thee here to do no Good? And since thou canst not make it appear, that thou hast converted one Soul, in turning it from Darkness to Light, and from Satan's Power to God; if thou wouldst prove thyself to be an honest Man, I would advise thee to make a Return of the Money or Effects thou hast receiv'd from the People. And, People, said I, I would have you to require it of him; for by his own Discourse he cannot say, that he has done you any Good. *Well,* said the Priest, *I will be gone.* No, said I, I would have thee stay, and I will undertake to prove thee a Deceiver before the People. *I will not stay,* said he, *upon your Demand,* and away he went.

His Assistant sate all this while and said nothing; but now, when the other was gone, I turn'd to him and ask'd him, what he had now to say? He answer'd, *You are the honestest People that dissent from the Church, in the whole Kingdom, and I love you the best.* Ah! said I, this is of the Colour of thy Cloth, and it looks very black; thou camest in a light airy Spirit, and now thou begins to flatter us. *Nay,* replied he, *I speak the Truth, and you shall come to visit me; I live at Holt, says he, three Miles*

Miles off, and you must not deny me. Well, said I, if thou art inclinable, and willing to allow any sober-minded People to be present, I don't know but I may answer thy Request. No, said he, *there shall be no Body present but you, and Robert Kirby, and me, and we will not have a Word of Religion, but only on School Terms.* If that be all, said I, I think I shall not come. Well, said he, *I must be going,* and he went out, and I went with him; and as we were walking on the Sea-shore, This, said he, *I have observed, that if once any come to be joined to your Society, they may as well wash a Black-moor white, and cleanse a Leopard from his Spots, as turn any of you from your Perswasion.* I answer'd, we could get nothing that did us any good when amongst you, and having met with the Word of eternal Life, whither should we go? There are many of you, continued I, that are Men of Learning and good Education, and did you wait to receive Power from God, you might be serviceable and do Good to the People. Well, said he, *you say well; but I must go,* and he took me by the Hand and said, *I wish you well.* I wish'd him the same, and so we parted.

The young Man above-mentioned, some Time after told me, that my Service at Cloy had such an Effect, that some who had the Opportunity of the Meeting, and of hearing what had pass'd with the Clergy in the Evening, were so thoroughly convinc'd, that they join'd themselves to our Society; and the Clerk, his Father, not living long after, confess'd to the Truth upon his dying Bed.

Pretty early in the Spring, in the Year 1681, it was upon me to go into some Part of the West; so about the latter End of the First Month I left Norwich, and had my first Meeting at Wells, where I had

I had a blessed Opportunity ; from thence I went to *Holt*, and so to *North-Walsham* and *Tarmouth*. After which I went to *Beckles* in *Suffolk* ; from thence to *Aldborough* ; then to *Woodbridge* ; next to *Ipswich* ; and taking a few Meetings more in this County, I passed into *Essex* ; where having staid some Weeks visiting Meetings, I came well to *London*, and staid there until the Yearly-meeting was over.

Then leaving *London* I came to *Kingston*, and some who were at that Meeting, told me some Years after, what Benefit they had received from my being there, and they were thankful to the Lord for it. From thence I took some Meetings in my Way to *Alton*, where was a large and good Meeting ; from thence I went by *Ailsford* to *Southampton*, and after a short Stay there, I went to *Ringwood*, where I was gladly received, several having been convinced at my former being there. I staid there some Meetings to the mutual Comfort and Satisfaction of Friends and others.

From *Ringwood* I went to *Pool*, and so to the Isle of *Purbeck*, where I had a Meeting at a publick Inn, to which many People resorted, and I had a good and serviceable Opportunity, many Things convincingly opening in me, suitable to the State of several that were present. I passed from thence to *Weymouth*, where I found myself engaged to stay several Meetings ; for there was an open Door, and many received the Testimony of Truth with Gladness in that Place.

From *Weymouth* I return'd again to *Ringwood*, taking Meetings in my Way ; I staid there but a little, and took Leave of Friends in the Spirit of Love and divine Fellowship, and taking some few Meetings

Meetings in my Way, I went to *Marlborough*, and had there a good Opportunity. And, visiting some other Meetings, I came to *Reading*, where we had a comfortable Meeting, the Lord's blessed Presence being sensibly felt, to the Joy and Comfort of many present. Taking some Meetings as I went, I got again to *London*, but I staid but little there, for I felt some Pressure upon my Spirit to visit some Parts of the North, and took not many Meetings before I got to *Norwich*.

In this Journey I can truly say, a Spring of divine Goodness did greatly attend me, and the Meetings, through which I passed, were sensible Partakers thereof, and comforted thereby. Whilst I staid in the City, I followed my Business very closely; but my Journey before-mentioned, falling more weightily upon me, I found I could not be clear without giving up to answer it; whereupon I prepared for it, and accordingly, towards the latter End of the Seventh Month I set forward, and, taking some Meetings, passed through the Isle of *Ely* into *Huntingtonshire*; after having had several Meetings in that County, I came to *Wellingborough* in *Northamptonshire*, and so to *Northampton*.

From *Northampton* I had Drawings in my Mind to go to *Warwick*, to visit our Friend *William Dewsbury*, who was then a Prisoner there, whom I was very glad to see, and he took my Visit very kindly. After having had several Meetings in that County, my Way open'd to go to *Worcester*; and having staid some Meetings there, I came next into *Herefordshire*, taking Meetings as I passed along through that County into *Radnorshire*. Having staid some Meetings, I got to *Welch-pool*; and having had a Meeting there, I went for *Shrewsbury*, and staid a Meeting there. From thence I went to a Meeting

Meeting appointed for me at *Gilbert Woollam's*, at *Ranmore* near *Namptwich* in *Cheshire*, which then a pretty many substantial Friends belong'd to ; but many of them afterwards removing into *Pensilvania*, did greatly lessen the Assembly. I lodged that Night with our ancient Friend *Thomas Briggs*, often mentioned in *George Fox's Journal* ; and the good old Man told me in the Morning, *he had been much concern'd that Night in praying to the Lord for the whole Society of his People.*

The next Day I went to *John Simcock's* of *Rigley-hall*, where I had a Meeting that Evening, and was at *Malpas* Meeting the next Day. From thence I went to *Chester*, where I had a Meeting on a Sixth-day ; on the Seventh-day I came to *Crude-hall*, where then lived *Mary Lowe* (who afterwards became my Wife) and with her lived *Eleanor Lowe* and *Mary Worral* ; the former became the Wife of *Roger Haydock*, the latter married *Thomas Whitehead*, a publick Friend of *Somersetshire*. On the First-day following I had a Meeting at *Newton* by the *Forrest*, which was large and comfortable ; the Third-day following I had another at *Sutton*, and returned that Night to *Crude-hall*, where was a Friend who had a Concern for a considerable Time to go a little Northward to visit Friends, and took the Opportunity and went along with me. And after visiting *Frandleigh* Meeting, we went to *Warrington* in *Lancashire*, and had a Meeting at *William Barns's* in *Sankey* on the First-day ; whose House being too straight for the Meeting, I perswaded Friends to get a Meeting-house built, which they readily fell in with, and the next Day met, and made several handsome Subscriptions in order thereto. And the Building was soon after got up, which did much better accommodate the Friends of the Meeting.

From

From thence we went to *Manchester*, which Meeting was then but small; we travelled from thence to *Rossendale*, where we had a good Opportunity at the Burial of a Friend; and after taking several Meetings by the Way, we got to *Lancaster*, and in the Way thither had many Heart-tendering Opportunities, the Lord's blessed Presence and Power greatly attending us in our Service: We had there a good Meeting. Then passing the Sands we came to *Swartmore*, *Daniel Abrahams* accompanying us from *Manchester* thither, who then was soliciting the youngest Daughter of *Margaret Fox*, in order to Marriage, which was not long after accomplished.

We had here a very solid Opportunity, for the Lord's living Presence was amongst us, and in a Sense thereof we departed from thence and came to *Hawkshead*; from thence we went to *Kendal*, where we had a pretty large and good Meeting. After having had a Meeting at *Crook*, and some other Places in *Westmoreland*, we came into *Yorkshire*, and visiting several Meetings in that County, came to *Settle*, where my Friend and I parted, after having had many comfortable Opportunities, and great Satisfaction in our Labours and Travels in the Service of Truth.

After which I went towards *York*, taking *Skipton*, and several other Meetings in my Way thither. Staying some Meetings there, I went from thence to *Malton*, and so to *Scarborough*, where I staid some Time. I had my Health pretty well, altho' much weaken'd as to my natural Strength; a fresh Visitation of the Springs of Life overflowing my Soul, supported me, and thereby the hard Labours and Travels I passed through, were made much more easy to me, as well as comfortable to those

those I visited; for which I was truly thankful to the Lord, and blessed be his Name for it.

Next I went to *Burlington*, and taking a Meeting or two by the Way I got to *Hull*; I was much comforted in the Meetings hitherto; and taking one Meeting more some few Miles from *Hull*, on the Side of the River *Humber*, there being a Meeting appointed for me on the other Side, I went over in the Passage Boat, and found Friends met together, and had a good Meeting amongst them; as I also had in the preceeding Meeting. The next Meeting I had was at *Brigg*, where Friends were glad to see me, and I them, and after having had a comfortable Meeting with them, I went, taking Meetings by the Way, towards *Boston*, where I met with an old Acquaintance, and after having had a Meeting there, he accompanied me some Miles towards the *Wasbes*, and then we parted.

I pursued my Way to *Gedney*, had a Meeting there, after which I went directly for *Lynn* in *Norfolk*, and staying a few Days there, I went afterwards to *Fakenham*, and from thence to *Norwich*, where Friends received me with great Joy. I got thither about the Beginning of the Twelfth Month: In this Journey I was greatly favoured, the Lord's Presence attending me all along; blessed be his Name.

Some Time after as I was going to a Meeting in the Country, *Ireland* was presented to my View, and there being a Friend with me that had been there, I enquired of him, *what kind of a Country Ireland was?* At the expressing of which Words a small Trembling seiz'd me; which he observing, said, *I believe it will become thy Place to go thither.* I took no Notice of that, nor did I mention my Concern

Concern to any Body for a considerable Time: But it grew upon me, and I found I could not be clear without giving up to answer it; and mentioning of it to some Friends, the Knowledge of it quickly got abroad to many.

The Yearly-meeting drawing on, I went directly to *Colchester*, and from thence to *London*, where I met *Roger Haydock* and his Wife, (he being then married) and my Friend *Mary Lowe*. Here I imparted my Mind to her, which, although we had often met together before in our Journeys, I never so much as mention'd one Word of Courtship to her; though my Spirit was closely united in a divine Fellowship with her.

After the Meeting was over, *Roger Haydock* went for the West, *Mary Lowe* accompanying him, and his Wife return'd Home. I staid not long after in the City, but *Colchester* Yearly-meeting drawing on, and *Isabel Yeamans*, Daughter of *Margaret Fox*, having it in her Mind to go thither, and desiring my Company, I went to it along with her. After our Service was over there, we went to *Ely*, to visit our Friend *Samuel Cater*, who was then a Prisoner there.

From thence we travelled to *Norwich*, where my Friend had several good Opportunities; and visiting some adjacent Meetings she returned again to *Norwich*; from whence we went to *Colne*, where some Friends from *London* met her to accompany her thither, and there we parted.

I taking some Meetings from thence in my Way Home, came to *Haveril* in *Suffolk*; and *Daniel Gridley's* Wife having had it some Time upon her Mind to visit some Meetings in *Norfolk*, went along with me to *Norwich*; and being at the Morning Meeting

Meeting, whilst concern'd in Prayer, one of the Informers with a Constable came in, and when she had done, he carried her to the Mayor's House, who was not then come from his Worship, but so soon as he came in, being told by the Constable the Reason of his being there, the Mayor desir'd him to go to the next Justice of the Peace, (the Earl of Tarmouth being to dine with him that Day) which he accordingly did.

At our first Appearance the Justice was very rough, and talked of making her *Mittimus* to send her to Goal, because she was found speaking in the Quaker's Meeting-house. I told him, she was brought before him through the Information of an Informer, and the Act they proceeded upon was a *fining*, but not an *imprisoning* Act; upon that he call'd for the Statute Book, and finding it to be so, he then enquir'd her Name, and from whence she came, and told her *she had better have staid at Home, than come there to have her Husband fined twenty Pounds for her preaching.* I desir'd him to consider, that as she was not preaching but *praying*, her Devotion was to God in Prayer, which the Act doth not forbid; it would be unreasonable to set a Fine upon her for that. Besides, said I, the Act requires two Witnesses, and here is but one. *Why,* says he, *here is the Constable, he can be a Witness.* I hope, said I, thou wilt not make the Constable an Informer. No, said the Constable, *I have done my Office, but I will not turn Informer.* Upon this the Justice said, *I think you study more to evade the Law, than you do your Prayers to please God.* I told him, we were a suffering People, and it greatly concern'd us to consult the Laws we were prosecuted upon, and he not having had a Hand in that Work before, that I knew of, he might be unacquainted with the said Laws; to which he answered, *This is the first Per-*

for that has been brought before me upon this Account. I thereupon told him, that if he pleas'd to consider of it till the next Morning, I believ'd my Friend there would promise, and I would engage with her, to appear before him the next Morning if he requir'd it. *Well,* said he, *we will leave it then, you promising to appear if I send for you.* She said, Yes, I will, if God permit: Upon which we withdrew.

In the Afternoon the said Friend had a good Opportunity in the Meeting, and the Meeting broke up peaceably. The next Morning, not hearing any Thing from the Justice, two or three of our Friends, besides myself, who were well known to him, went to his House, and as soon as we appear'd before him, he look'd upon me with an angry Countenance, saying, *I am inform'd you are a Jesuit;* upon which the Friends smiling, told the Justice, that whosoever had given him that Information, were greatly mistaken, for they knew me to be otherwise, and that I was born in that County, and then liv'd in that City.

After which he talked with us more freely, and signified that it was no Pleasure to him to persecute his religious Neighbours, and as this was the first that came before him on that Account, he hoped it would be the last. Then we requesting to know his Pleasure, whether the Friend that had been with him should come before him again? After some little more Discourse he told us, *She might go about her Business;* which we told him we took as a Favour from him, and so departed. And after she had visited several more Meetings in the County, she returned towards her Habitation, where she got in Health, being well satisfied with her Journey.

An ACCOUNT of his Visit
to FRIENDS in IRELAND.

MY Irish Journey now falling pretty weightily upon me, I found myself engaged to visit Friends Meetings not only in *Norfolk*, but in some Parts of *Suffolk*, and pretty thoroughly in *Essex*; and after I was clear of my Service there, I returned again to *Norwich*; and every Thing being prepared for my Journey into *Ireland*, I set out in the Beginning of the Seventh Month, after having taken a solemn Farewel of our Friends at *Norwich*, and got to *Mildenhall*; and from thence I went through the Isle of *Ely* into *Huntingtonshire*, and thence into *Northamptonshire*, and to *Warwick*, where I once more visited *William Dewsbury*; and from thence I went into *Staffordshire*, and so into *Cheshire*, visiting several Meetings as I passed along.

I staid but little with my Friend *Mary Lowe*, but took Leave of her, and went to *Frendley* on a First-day; from thence I went to *Warrington*, and next to *Liverpool*, where staying but one Night, I went next Morning on board, and in twenty four Hours the Ship cast Anchor in the Bay of *Dublin*, where I arrived about the latter End of the Seventh Month, in the Year 1682.

In this Nation I travelled up and down in the Work of the Gospel, and had great and good Service, many being convinced by Means of my Ministry. At *Antrim*, a Place of great Profusion, I had a Meeting in the Evening, to which a great

many came, and some with a Design to oppose me. The Place was not large enough to contain the People, which occasion'd those without to be very noisy and turbulent, some of the ruder Sort pelting them with Bits of Dirt and Turf, whilst I was preaching. Upon which I made a full Stop, which occasioned a general Silence; and after a little Time I said, *I understand this is a Place of great Profession of Religion: I am sorry to see so much Irreligion as appears amongst you at this Time, thro' your rude Behaviour. It is not long since I came out of my native Country, and I think it will not be long ere I return again, and then what shall I say of you to your poor suffering Brethren in England? There was a Dread upon me when I spoke these Words, which also affected those present, for many of them trembled, and their Faces gather'd Paleness. Upon which I advised them, if they had any Regard to the Reputation of Religion, to enquire after those that were the Occasion of these Disorders, for that such Behaviour was base and scandalous. And moreover I was moved to say, That the Time draws nigh, that you will be blown away like the Chaff before the Summer Threshing-floor, and the Place of your Meeting will not be found. After this, some cried out in a Scottish Tone, We be all shamed, and getting out of the House, enquired after those that were the Occasion of the Disorders: Some Lads they got and beat, others that absconded they took the Names of; after which we had a solemn good Meeting, the lively Sense of the Love of God reached to the Hearts of many present, and the Meeting ended well.*

At this Meeting a young Man a Papist, and Servant to William Wilkinson, was convinced, as were many more elsewhere in the North, and other Parts. I travelled through Ulster, and several Parts

of *Munster* and *Leinster*, where I had many Meetings. I departed from *Dublin* on the 14th of the Ninth Month, and returned thither again the 25th of the First Month 1683.

After the Conclusion of the following Third Month's Half-years Meeting, I intended to have returned to *England*, and in order to it I sold my Horse and prepared for the Voyage, but the Wind proving contrary I could not get off; and besides, I found some Stop in myself, a farther Service being presented to my View; to which I gave up, though much contrary to my Inclination, viz. It fell with some Weight upon me to have a Meeting at *Tralee* in the County of *Kerry*, where *William Bingley* had been. Accordingly I set out from *Dublin* the 17th of the Third Month, taking Meetings in the Way, and went to *Cork*, and from thence to *Tralee* (a Journey of 158 Miles) accompanied by *John Hammond*, *Thomas Wight*, and some others, and had a comfortable Opportunity at *Tralee*; many Hearts were tendered, the Lord's Presence attending, and after the Meeting ended, the People withdrew in a solemn and peaceable Manner. *P. White*, a Man of Note in the Town, came and offered them his House to meet in, which they kindly accepted, as also of his Invitation to dine with him next Day, and we parted in much Friendship. After this I visited several Meetings in *Leinster* Province, and went to the North again.

As I was going from *Antrim* to the *Grange*, I saw ten or twelve Men upon the Road walking in a very solitary Manner, and it arose in my Heart, *These are Sheep having no Shepherd*. When I came up to them, I slackned my Pace, and queried of them, *What News?* The Men were startled at the

Question, and answered, *We know of none*; continuing to go softly, I said, *Are ye going to a Meeting?* They answer'd, *Our Minister is silenced; for Orders are come down, commanding all Dissenters not to assemble; so now we have no Teacher.* This brought to my Remembrance what I had been concerned to deliver as above, at the Evening-meeting I had at *Antrim*, where I met with so much Rudeness, viz. *That the Time draws nigh, that you will be blown away like Chaff before the Summer Threshing-floor, and the Place of your Meeting will not be found.* At this Time all Dissenters, except Friends, had declined keeping up their Meetings.

I proceeded to discourse with the Men aforementioned, and said, *The Hireling flieth because he is a Hireling, and careth not for the Sheep; as it is said, John x. 11, 12, 13. referring them to the Text; farther shewing, that it is happy for those who are come to the Knowledge of that Teacher which cannot be removed into a Corner.* God said, he would teach his Children himself; and the Children of the Lord are taught of the Lord. See John vi. 45. and Isa. liv. 13. and you may read in the first Epistle of John, Chap. ii. 27. The Anointing which ye have received of him abideth in you, and ye need not that any Man teach you, but as the same Anointing teacheth you of all Things, &c. And in Titus ii. 11, 12. The Grace of God, which bringeth Salvation, hath appeared unto all Men, teaching us, &c. Here I directed them to the great, heavenly School-master, who said, *Learn of me, for I am meek and lowly in Heart; follow me, and ye shall find Rest unto your Souls, Mat. xi. 29.* Thus labouring to bring them from their Hireling-Teachers, to the Teaching of God and Christ in themselves, by which they might come to the Knowledge of God, and walk in the Ways of his Salvation;

Salvation ; for a Manifestation of the Spirit is given to every Man to profit withal, 1 Cor. xii. 7. Advising them to turn their Minds inward, and mind the secret Operations of it, whereby they would find, through a lively Experience, that it checks and reproveth for bad Words and Actions ; and as they turned to that, they would find it would lead them into all Truth ; with many more Words to this Effect. They were well pleased with this Discourse, declaring at parting, *that they had never heard Things so opened to them in their Lives.*

The Number of Miles I travelled in *Ireland* were 1746 ; the Number of Meetings I had there, exclusive of *Dublin*, were 180 ; and in this Service I spent one Year within a few Days.

And having cleared myself of what Service lay upon me in this Kingdom, I took Leave of Friends in a very large and solemn Meeting at *Dublin*, where the Lord's blessed Presence and Power did crown the Assembly, to our mutual Joy and Satisfaction ; it was indeed a very tendering Opportunity, and in great Unity we parted. And soon after I took shipping in *Dublin Bay*, and in twenty two Hours we cast Anchor at *Liverpool*, and I got to my Friend *Mary Lowe's* at *Crude-hall* that Day Twelve-month that I left it ; and found she was but newly discharged from Imprisonment, having been confined about three Months for the first Offence upon the Act of Banishment, she refusing to take the Oaths.

I staid not long there before it came upon me to visit several Meetings in *Lancashire*, and after I had cleared myself of what was before me there, I came to *Stockport* in *Cheshire*, and had a Meeting ; from thence I went to *Hugh Burges's* in *Siyall*, where my

Friend *Mary Lowe*, with several others, met me ; I then went to *Joseph Endon's* in *Basley*, where we met with our Friend *John Gratton*, it being the first Time I had seen him, and we had there a very comfortable Meeting, the Hearts of many being greatly tendered ; and it was also the first Time I had been on that Side of the County. After having taken one or two more Meetings, we returned to *Crude-hall*.

In the Beginning of the Ninth Month we declared our Intentions of Marriage to Friends of *Frandley* Monthly-meeting ; after which I soon set out for *Norwich*, our Friend *Geoffery Allcock* accompanying me, that being then the Place of my Settlement. And their Monthly-meeting being on the third Fourth-day of the same Month, I took but a few Meetings in my Way, and got thither Time enough to lay my Intentions before the same ; which being done, I travelled into *Suffolk*, and had Meetings at *Beccles*, and *Aldborough*, the Place where I formerly met with very rough Entertainment from a Man, whose Wife was some Time before convinced by me, and who had threaten'd to *kill me* if I came there again. He hearing that I was to be at the Meeting came in, greatly enraged, to revenge himself upon me ; I was speaking when he came in, and making his Way up to me, he pulled me down, and gave me several very ill Blows about my Head and Face, which rais'd several Swellings ; but in executing his Fury upon me he fell down, but recovering himself, and attempting to pursue his farther Revenge upon me, a Friend whose Name was *John Mason*, who had accompanied my honourable Friend *Giles Barnadiston* and me to the Meeting, observing it, stept to him, and laid hold of him, to prevent his doing any more Mischief, and being
a very

a very strong Man, held him so fast that he could no way disentangle himself, and desiring to be set at Liberty, he promising to go away peaceably, the Friend let him go.

In the mean Time his Wife went out of the Meeting undiscovered by him, and he not finding her, came in again; I was then concerned in my Testimony as before, but he seeing my Friend *Mason* standing up before me, did not venture to come up to me, but after venting a Volley of revengeful Oaths against me he withdrew; after which we had a peaceable good Meeting. The good Woman lived not long after, through the horrid Abuses that he committed upon her; she kept steady to her Testimony to the End, and was beloved by Friends and others that were acquainted with her.

From hence we went to *Woodbridge*, and so to *Ipswich*, and after having visited some other Meetings, I accompanied my good Friend *Giles Barnadiston* to his Habitation at *Clare* in *Suffolk*; and after passing through some Meetings I made my Way to *Norwich*; where, according to the good Order used amongst us, I presented my Intentions of Marriage a second Time, and all Things being found clear, I set forwards for *Cheshire*, and taking some few Meetings by the Way, I reached *Derbyshire* Quarterly-meeting, which was held the 25th Day of the Tenth Month. The next Day I went home with *John Gratton*, staid one Night, and the next Day came to *Stockport*, and the Day following to *Crowton*, where I met with my Friend *Mary Lowe*; and on the 1st of the Eleventh Month we again presented our Intentions of Marriage to *Frandleigh* Monthly-meeting, where being left to our Liberty, we accomplished the same the Fifth Day following

following at *Framley*, being the third of the same Month.

A general Meeting at *Newton* coming on soon after, we went to it, and it being a suffering Time for Friends in that County, Sir *Philip Egerton* and Captain *Needham*, two Justices of the Peace, came to break up the Meeting, I was at Prayer when they came in, and they stood a while silent; then Captain *Needham* stept up to me and commanded Silence, which I not observing, he first took my Hat and threw it away, then got hold of my Cravat and pull'd it in pieces; I still continuing mine Addresses to Almighty God, for his divine Presence was amongst us, he then struck me over my Head with his Cane, with such Violence as to raise several great Swellings on my Head, and after that he kick'd me down with his Foot from off my Knees.

After this, Friends rising from their Knees and putting on their Hats, he broke several of their Heads, so that the Blood ran down; then Sir *Philip* cried, *Brother, Brother, let us prosecute the Law upon them, and not abuse them*; and my Wife stood up and said with a raised Voice, *Christians! Turks, Heathens, Infidels, would scorn such Practice. Oh! Mary, said Sir Philip, are you there? Yes, said she, Philip, I am here*: Then, said he, *Philip and Mary were two great Folks once*.

Their Intention was to have tendered us the Oaths, and send us to Prison, but having no Bible with them, they took down Names to prosecute us on the *Conventicle Act*, and I was fined twenty Pounds, and others proportionably to their Stations, which was levied with great Rigour. This their rigorous Proceedings was so noised about in that

that and neighbouring Counties, that they were so ashamed of their Proceedings, that they came no more to break up our Meetings.

Not many Days after, my Wife was taken with a Warrant and committed to *Chester* Castle for the second Offence upon the Act of Banishment, where she continued with many others until the Spring-Quarter Sessions at *Chester*, and was then discharged.

In the Year 1684 I went up to the Annual Meeting at *London*, and Friends there being kept out of their Meeting-houses, kept their Meetings in the Streets; and after the Meeting was over I returned home.

In the Spring 1685, I found it upon my Mind to visit Friends in *Lancashire*, *Westmoreland* and *Cumberland*; and coming to *Penrith*, I heard that our good Friend *Thomas Wilson* lay dangerously ill, so I left my Horse at *Penrith*, and walked to pay him a Visit, and found him in a very weak Condition; after a short stay I was moved in Spirit to supplicate the Lord on his Behalf, and I received a gracious Answer, that he should be restored again to Health; upon which I desired him not to be discouraged, for he should do well; and I told him, I believed in a short Time I should see him again in *Cheshire*; and it was not long before it came to pass.

The next Day I came from *Penrith* to *Carlisle*, and got to the Border-meeting on First-day, where the Lord was pleased to give us a comfortable Opportunity together. Several of our Friends were Prisoners at that Time at *Carlisle*. From thence, passing through most of the Meetings in *Cumberland*, I came to *Pandsey-cragg* Meeting, which was very

very large; and as in the other Meetings I had passed through, so in that the Lord greatly favour'd us with his Life-giving Presence, by which the Hearts of many were greatly tendered.

From thence I crossed the Water into *Lancashire*, and came to the House of Dr. *Lower*, where I staid one Night, and went to *Swartbmore*, the Seat of *Margaret Fox*, and paying a Visit to the Family, I went next to *Lancaster*, and staid a Meeting there; and taking a few more Meetings in that County I came to *Warrington*, and staid one Night at *Roger Haydock's*, and so got the next Day home, where I found all well to my great Satisfaction.

In the Year 1686, our ancient Friend *Isaac Ashton* and I went to see how our Brethren fared Northwards, and taking some Meetings in the Eastern Parts of *Lancashire*, we came to *Sedburgh* in *Yorkshire*, where we had a blessed Meeting; and taking several Meetings in the Dales of *Yorkshire*, we came to *Grayrig*, and had there, as in other Meetings we passed through, a very seasonable Opportunity.

From thence, taking a Meeting by the Way, we came to *Richmond*, and taking several Meetings as we passed along, we came to *Tarm*, where the next Evening we had a very large Meeting; from thence we went to *Stockton* in the Bishoprick of *Durham*, where we found a pretty large Body of Friends, and had a good and solid Opportunity amongst them. Returning thence into *Yorkshire*, taking some Meetings by the Way, we came to *Whiby*, and so to *Scarborough*, where we had large and good Meetings. From thence we passed thro' *Malton* to *York*, where in the Afternoon we had a large Meeting, a great many of King James's Soldiers

Soldiers coming to it, who behaved themselves, for some Time after they came in, a little rudely in talking to one another; but after a while the Lord's Power broke in amongst the Soldiers, so that many of them were greatly tendered and broken, and the Meeting ended to the Satisfaction, I think, of all present.

From *York* we went to *Leeds*, and so to *Halifax*; at both which Meetings the Lord greatly favoured us. There I parted with my Friend *Isaac Ashton*, and making my Way towards *Manchester*, I stayed there all Night, and next Morning reached to *Frandley* Meeting, and so got Home.

In the Year 1687, I and my Wife went for *London*, in Company with *Samuel Watson*, and several other Friends: After the Yearly-meeting there was over, we went for *Essex*, and visited the greatest Part of the Meetings in that County, which were generally very large.

From *Essex* we went into *Suffolk*, where we had several large and precious Opportunities; and taking some Meetings as we went, we came to *Norwich*, where we stayed some Days, and had several very good and comfortable Meetings. After having visited many Meetings in the County of *Norfolk*, we felt Drawings in our Minds towards Home.

Accordingly we set forwards to my Brother *Joshua's*, at *Mildenball* in *Suffolk*, and had a large and precious good Meeting there; from thence we went to the Isle of *Ely*, and so into *Huntingtonshire*, where having visited several Meetings, we passed through *Wellingborough* to *Northampton*, at which Places the Lord greatly favoured us with his blessed Presence.

From

From thence passing through part of *Leicestershire*, taking Meetings as we went, we came through *Nottinghamshire*, to *Robert Mellor's* at the *White Lough* in *Staffordshire*, where we stayed all Night; in the Morning we went to *Leek*, and so to *Macclesfield*, and from thence Home, where we were gladly received: This was a satisfactory Journey to us both.

In the Year 1688 we removed from *Crowton* to *Stockport*; this and the following Year I stayed pretty much at Home.

About the latter End of the Year 1690, having strong Drawings in my Mind to visit Friends at *London*, and in some Parts of the West of *England*; it was then a very cold Time, and the Lanes betwixt *Stockport* and *Macclesfield* so full of Snow, that they were not passable, so were forced (*Robert Newton*, a Friend of *Stockport* accompanying me) to make our Way through the Fields; so we got to *Macclesfield*, where we stayed that Night: *James Dickenson* being also for *London*, and hearing that I was set out, came and overtook me at *Macclesfield*.

So we travelled together, taking some Meetings as we went, till we came to *Banbury* in *Oxfordshire*, where we found a Meeting of publick Friends at the House of *Richard Vivers*: We came seasonably to it, where we had a very reviving and comfortable Opportunity, to the great Satisfaction of that solid Assembly. To this Place we had a very hard Journey, the Ways being very bad, the Snow and Ice considerable, and cold Winds attending it.

From hence we went to *Ailsbury*, and so to *Uxbridge*, and then to *London*; here I stayed some Time, and after I had cleared myself there, I set out

out for the West, leaving my Friend *James Dickenson* still at *London*, and taking Meetings as I went along, I came to *Southampton*, and so to *Ringwood*; from thence to *Pool*, and passing through the Isle of *Purbeck*, I came to *Weymouth*, where we found the People in a great Consternation, they espying a great Fleet of Ships, supposed them to be *French*; but having sent out a Boat to discover what they were, upon the Return of it, to their great Joy and Satisfaction, 'twas found to be a Fleet of *English* Merchant-men, under Convoy of some Men of War. War had before been declared between *France* and *England*.

After a short Stay here, taking several Meetings by the Way, I came to *Exeter*, and so to *Bristol*; here I stayed some Days, and had very large and comfortable Meetings amongst Friends, as indeed I had all along hitherto; Friends being generally glad to see me, I having formerly visited those Meetings; and the Lord's Presence and Power attended me in my Service.

From *Bristol* I went to *French-bay*, and so to *Nailsworth*, then to *Gloucester*; from thence to *Worcester*, so to *Sturbridge* and *Woolverhampton*; from *Woolverhampton* to *Stafford*; and taking a Meeting or two more by the Way, I came to *Stockport*, arriving there pretty early in the Spring, in the Year 1691, where I found all well, and was received with a great deal of Joy. And indeed this was a satisfactory Journey; for having discharged the Duty which the Lord required of me, I had Peace and Comfort attending me therein.

POSTSCRIPT.

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OUR worthy Friend could not be prevailed upon to bring down his MEMOIRS lower than in the foregoing Account. I believe he did not travel much for many Years before his Decease, but was a constant Attender of our Circular Meetings, as also Quarterly and Monthly-meetings; in which he was of singular Service, and eminently gifted both for Doctrine and Discipline, well knowing how to divide the Word aright, and was indeed as a Prince in our *Israel*.

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J. H.

POSTSCRIPT.